

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5098

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

CONFIDENTIAL BELGRADE 6774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO UR

SUBJ: MORE ON MINIC IN MOSCOW

REF: A. BELGRADE 6578, B) MOSCOW 17960

1. SUMMARY: PULLING TOGETHER ALL STRANDS OF INFORMATION ON MINIC MOSCOW VISIT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING. YUGOSLAVS TRIED FOR DIRECT REFERENCE TO BELGRADE DECLARATION IN EARLY STAGES OF COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING, BUT HAD TO SETTLE FOR NON-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE. THIS, HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT ADMIT. SIMILARLY THEY TRIED FOR MUTUAL LANGUAGE ON NON-ALIGNMENT AND LOST AFTER A TOUGH FIGHT. THIS THEY WILL ADMIT, BUT TRY TO GILD LILY. WHATEVER MINIC GOT IN PRIVATE UNCLEAR, AND GOY LEANS HEAVILY ON "PRAVDA" ARTICLE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE VARIOUS THEMES THAT NOW ARE ARTICULATED MORE OR LESS CONSISTENTLY HERE IN VARIOUS QUARTERS--GOY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND JOURNALISTS-- ON CONTENT AND TONE OF MINIC-GROMYKO COMMUNIQUE.

3. FIRST, YUGOSLAVS DID SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THEY PUT FORWARD IN FIRST DRAFT ON REFERENCES TO ISSUE OF
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INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-ALIGNMENT. BUT THEY WILL NOT ADMIT THIS AND TRY HARD TO GLOSS IT

OVER. EXPLANATIONS RUN FROM THAT GIVEN AMBASSADOR BY FSFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY MILECEVIC THAT GOY MOVING TOWARD "SHORTER COMMUNIQUES"; TO THAT GIVEN UK DIPLOMAT BY FSFA SOVIET AFFAIRS DIRECTOR DJUKIC THAT "MORE APPROPRIATE FOR PRIME MINISTER TO STATE PRINCIPLES" THAN FOR THIS TO BE DONE AT FORNMIN LEVEL. FURTHER, RATIONALE ADVANCED BY YUGOSLAVS THAT DIRECT REFERENCE TO BELGRADE DECLARATION (WHICH WE INFORMED THEY SOUGHT IN THEIR FIRST DRAFT) UNACCEPTABLE FOR SOVIETS ON GROUNDS OF THEIR OWN DOMESTIC POLITICS--I.E., BREZHNEV VERSUS KRUSHCHEV. WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, BOTH GOY OFFICIALS AND YUGOSLAV JOURNALISTS FALL BACK TO POINT THAT PUBLIC "PRAVDA" DISAVOWAL OF COMINFORMISM AS EVIDENCE MINIC GOT WHAT HE WANTED IN PRIVATE ASSURANCES.

4. SECOND, YUGOSLAVS TRIED HARD TO GET SOVIETS TO AGREE TO A MUTUAL REFERENCE TO NON-ALIGNMENT BUT HAD TO COME AWAY WITH HALF-A-LOAF UNILATERAL STATEMENT. SENIOR YUGOLAVS WILL ADMIT THIS, BUT TRY TO ARGUE IT AWAY IN TWO VARIATIONS OF RATIONALIZING: (A) THAT SOVIET POSITIONS SO WELL-KNOWN THAT MOST EXPECTED WAS ONE-SIDED REFERENCE AND (B) SINCE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS KNOW SOVIETS REFUSED TO BUDGE ON THIS POINT (AND, SINCE GOY TELLING THIS TO NON-ALIGNED, KNOW ALSO HOW HARD YUGOSLAVS PRESSED ON THIS POINT) THAT SOVIETS HAVE ONLY GOTTEN A BLACK EYE. FSFA NORTH AMERICAN DIRECTOR STARCEVIC EVEN STRETCHED THIS SECOND STRAND FURTHER BY TELLING AMBASSADOR THAT NON-ALIGNED DISPLEASURE WITH SOVIETS WOULD "BENEFIT THE USG". (AMBASSADOR RESPONDED IN LIGHT OF YUGOSLAV DANCE TO SOVIET ANGOLAN TUNE WE UNIMPRESSED).

5. FINALLY, THERE IS SOME SUGGESTION IN MINIC STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL BACK IN BELGRADE THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE A DEGREE OF CONCERN FOR FUTURE OF GOY-SOVIET RELATIONS: QUOTE: IN CONNECTION WITH ALL PROBLEMS IN MUTUAL RELATIONS WHICH ARE EXISTING, EMERGING OR WILL EMERGE, ONE SHOULD ALWAYS SEEK TO FIND SOLUTIONS THAT ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS. END QUOTE. (I.E., BENEVOLENT
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BREZHNEV FOLLOWED IN POST-TITO PERIOD BY HARDER LINE SUSLOV-TYPE).

6. ON OTHER MINIC-GROMYKO MATTERS, WE COME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING. MENTION OF CONTRACTUAL-LEGAL BASIS IS REFERENCE TO NEGOTIATION ON AMENDING 1961 CONSULAR CONVENTION. YUGOSLAVS NOT PREPARED TO GRANT, FOR EXAMPLE, DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOR CONSULAR OFFICERS (RUMORS THAT SOVIET CONGEN ZAGREB WAS KGB). ALSO REFERS TO INFORMATION ACCORD OF WHICH SOVIETS AND YUGOSLAVS HAVE EXCHANGED DRAFTS.

DIFFERENCES EXIST OVER YUGOSLAV DESIRE TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMATION CENTER IN MOSCOW. SOVIETS CLAIM THEY AFRAID OF PRECEDENT THIS WOULD SET -- I.E., WEST HAVING SUCH CENTER IN MOSCOW.

7. COMMENT: YUGOSLAVS, GOY OFFICIALS EXPECIALLY, TRY TO MAKE MOST OF "PRAVDA" ARTICLE AS EVIDENCE YUGOSLAVIA CAME OUT WELL ON COMINFORMISM ISSUE. AND POINT TO 14 BILLION DOLLAR TRADE AGREEMENT AS A BIG PLUS, IN PARTICULAR AT A TIME WHEN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH WEST TROUBLESOME. BUT WHATEVER MINIC GOT FROM SOVIETS IN PRIVATE, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE ENOUGH TO GIVE THEM MUCH REASON TO RELAX ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS AND CONSTANT PROBING ACTIONS.

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